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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION - NOVEMBER 1, 1935

Developments during October gave further support to the expectation that cattle feeding during the winter of 1935-36 will be on a considerably larger scale than during the winter of 1934-35. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from stockyards markets into the Corn Belt States in October were 40 percent larger than in October 1934, and showed about the usual seasonal increase over September shipments. For the four months, July to October, shipments into the Corn Belt States were about 5 percent larger than in 1934 and were larger than the 3-year (1930-1934) average.

Shipments into the 5 Corn Belt States east of the Mississippi River continued relatively large in October, but did not show as large an increase over October 1934 as did shipments into the Western Corn Belt. For the four months, July to October the total into the Eastern Corn Belt was the largest since 1926, at least, and the proportion of the total shipments into the Corn Belt going into the 5 Eastern Corn Belt States was the largest on record. Reports from these States indicate that the number of cattle fed this season will be considerably larger than last.

The relatively large shipments from stockyards markets into the six Western Corn Belt States in October brought the total movement for the four months, July to October, above the total for the same period last year, but with the exception of last year, it was the smallest for the period in at least 15 years. Reports from these States show a continued heavy movement during October of stocker and feeder cattle through large-scale auction markets and direct to feedlots and the number of cattle fed in all of these States is expected to be larger this season than last.

A plentiful supply of hay and roughage and low prices for these in all the Corn Belt States, with relatively large amounts of soft corn in some States, and a high moisture content of all corn generally in most States east of the Missouri River, have maintained a broad demand for stocker and feeder cattle during recent weeks and prices of such cattle made little seasonal decline during October.

An unusually large proportion of feeder calves and of cows and heifers in stocker and feeder shipments this year is shown by records for four leading markets covering shipments from these markets during the four months, July to October. The shipments of calves were the largest in 11 years of record and of cows and heifers were the largest since 1929, at least. Of the steers shipped from these markets the proportions of heavy feeders (over 900 pounds) and of light stockers were larger than last year and the proportions of medium weights were smaller.

Reports from most of the Western States, and from Texas, indicate that the number of cattle fed this season will be larger than last, with the movement to ranch pastures and feed lots in considerable volume by the end of October. Feeder cattle shipments from markets into the Lancaster, Pennsylvania feeding area since July have been relatively large, being exceeded in only one year of record - 1934 - when considerable numbers of Government drought cattle were included.

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